



IDAHO FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Idaho Department of Lands Office
3780 Industrial Avenue S., Coeur d'Alene
9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions – IFSAC Chair, Oscar Baumhoff presiding

Oscar Baumhoff asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from the March 19, 2008, meeting. He asked if there were any questions or clarifications.

A MOTION was made by Arleen Pence to accept the Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2008. That motion was seconded by Dee Sessions and passed unanimously.

Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Forestry Assistance Report – Ara Andrea

Ara Andrea reported that the 2008 Water Quality and Forest Practices Audits had been completed. She gave a brief review of the inspection process and participants (Ctrl+Click to see handout entitled "Summary of 2008 Water Quality/Forest Practices Audit" [111208 A. Andrea.pdf](#)). The audit report, which has been delayed by DEQ due to position turnover, will be complete by summer 2009.

Ara gave a brief review of other bureau news, including the retirement of Linda Roeske and the resulting change of duties in the front office. Arvilla Allen has taken over the administrative assistant duties, and fiscal responsibilities have passed to the fiscal department.

Other bureau news included a State holdback of 1%. An additional 1.5% is being held in reserve for additional anticipated holdbacks. Overall, the bureau is preparing for a 5% possible holdback. Currently EQIP funds being held in reserve will help cover these losses; however, future fiscal year holdbacks remain an issue of concern.

Within the bureau, the IDT is working on GIS layers, modeling fish points, and class I and II stream designations. They have developed a conformity model that is being ground-truthed for end-of-fish points; so far ground-truthed data has matched modeling.

USDA Forest Service/Farm Bill Report—Dee Sessions

Dee Sessions reviewed Forest Service budget topics and gave a federal budget recap, noting that the continuing resolution would be effective through March 2009 (and possibly longer). He said that the big-stake items won't go out; however, smaller grants may have funding available earlier.

Mary Fritz asked whether the continuing resolution would change funding. Dee responded that funding will be the same as it was in FY08.

Next Dee reported that the MOU with the NRCS has been signed. Idaho is the first of three states to have an MOU with the NRCS; thus, Idaho has become a role model nationally.

Regarding statewide assessment, final guidelines have been sent out. Dee noted that final strategies must address conservation, protection, and enhancement.

Dee reviewed the 2008 Farm Bill, adding that the changing nature of funding and the need for cutting costs has created a "transformation" in Washington and within the regulatory offices. He stressed that congressional interest is key. For detailed information, refer to his handout, entitled "2008 Farm Bill –Food, Conservation, and Energy act of 2008" at [111208 D. Sessions.pdf](#).

There was group discussion on the roles that EQIP and FLEP play, and how the application processes affect landowners (e.g., landowners need help and assistance in filling out the applications).

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)—Ara Andrea for Frank Gariglio & Committee

Ara delivered an EQIP update for Frank Gariglio, who was absent. EQIP activities have been following the path of previous work, with private forestry specialists helping landowners in a collaborative way. Also involved are local working groups. (See Frank's narrative in the "November 2008, NRCS REPORT—Idaho Forest Stewardship Committee" handout.)



Frank Narrative
IFSAC 11-12-08.docx

Ara shared an update from Jeff Fidgen, who was absent, noting that Jeff had attended the NRCS Technical Working Group meeting. Jeff reported that the future was looking good for forestry funding. In addition, Jeff, along with David Groeschl and Rob Ethridge attended west-wide forestry meetings in August. Jeff's narrative is included in the document entitled "Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Semi-Annual Meeting, November 12, 2008".



Jeff Narrative IFSAC
11-12-08.docx

Group discussion moved to the topic of training “certified planners” who can sign off on stewardship and conservation plans—thus reducing an existing bottleneck of data. Montana is leading a pilot project. Other states are hoping to form plans based on Montana’s success.

From 10:30 – 10:35 a.m., the group took a morning break. Following this break, the group was introduced to David Groeschl, Idaho Department of Lands Forestry & Fire Division Administrator, who gave a brief review of his work experience and of the work he’s been doing with the Land Board.

Forest Legacy Program Report—Ed Warner

Ed Warner gave a PowerPoint overview of the Forest Legacy Program (see [FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM UPDATE1108.pptx](#)). He reviewed funding and project activities, including committee ranking for the top three 2010 Forest Legacy projects (Gold Creek, Bane Creek, and McArthur Lake). The Gold Creek project ranked #1 for the 2010 projects. Mary Terra-Burns raised a concern that parts of Gold Creek may already be protected under Fish and Game BPA easements and previous legacy projects. Ed plans to look into this issue. *Follow-up:* After some checking, Mary Terra-Burns reported that the BPA easement on the Woods property involved a parcel not part of the Legacy project area.

Further Legacy review included news of a donation of an easement on/near the Canadian border. Ed stated that \$30,000 to \$40,000 is needed for closing costs. He’s trying to get funding to help the landowners with those costs. Additional news included a potential donation of a 400-acre easement on Highway 95.

Master Forest Owner Program Report—Chris Schnepf

Chris Schnepf reported on past, current, and planned forest stewardship programs at the University of Idaho. He reported that last year’s educational activities went well and that similar activities are planned for next year. Next year’s sessions will include five new GPS programs, on-line availability of course-works, web-based interactive components, and a Forestry short-course.

Chris reported that the Idaho Master Forest Owner Program’s committee met for the first time, with 14-15 participants. Meeting topics included forest owner transition planning, innovative program and grant idea brainstorming, and discussion of the application process and criteria for master forest owner testing. An example of one of the ideas that the group came up with was for a student to get credit by “shadowing” a forester for a day and then writing up the experience (and perhaps posting on-line).

The MFO Committee came up with 80 – 120 specific measurable objectives for the Forestry short-course, such as what is the minimum knowledge a student should have, and can the student correctly identify various species of trees. Topics included discussion of the required credits, elective credits, and case study credits that would address the following: subject matter, content, policy, and leadership. Students are able to take the test as many times as needed until they pass.

For more information see University of Idaho Extension handouts:

[Forest Stewardship Report 07-08.pdf](#)

[Cal 08-09 \(for handing out\).docx](#)

[Agenda - 1st meeting.docx](#)

The group broke for lunch at 11:25 a.m. and resumed at 12:00 p.m.

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) – Ara Andrea for Jeff Fidgen

Ara reported Jeff was unable to attend today's meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Currently, all remaining FLEP 2005 funds have been allocated to forestry practices, but not yet all spent. Out of the approximately \$90,000 of funds, \$15,000 was reserved for landowner forest stewardship plans (LFSPs). About \$45,000 in cost shares remain in the 2005 FLEP grant, though it is all allocated. Unless these funds are spent by June 30, 2009, they will be withdrawn. Similarly, all 2005 HFRP funds are allocated to practices with approximately 160 acres treated to early seral species such as pines and larch.

Ara reported that none of the FLEP 2006 funds have been allocated to plans or practices and the balance of \$35,000 remains unspent; \$10,000 has been set aside for educational outreach. Last fall, IDL presented a plan for spending both FLEP 2005 and 2006 funds on LFSPs and practices such as planting, thinning, pruning, etc. Ara is concerned that there will continue to be a need for landowners to have cost share funds once FLEP 2005 and 2006 funds are spent and no new funds become available. Ara reported that both she and Jeff are concerned there will come a time when FLEP funds have been completely spent and no funding is available through EQIP or other programs to cost share LFSPs. She suggested to the Committee they reconsider making FLEP 2006 available for plans *and practices* and instead only fund cost-shared LFSPs until June 30, 2010.

Suzie Jude reported that there were 64 new and 17 revised LFSPs reported for FFY2008 Performance Measurement Accountability System (PMAS), representing a total of 15,317 acres.

Follow-up Item: For FFY2008, approximately 16 LFSPs were FLEP cost-shared (14 new and 2 re-certified/revised), or 20% of new and revised plans, representing 2,973 acres. FLEP 2008 practices accomplished to date total 365 acres with the following breakdown: Planting - 282 acres; Chemical Tree Protection – 134 acres; Pre-commercial Thinning – 71.8 acres; Tree Pruning – 11.2 acres; Site Preparation - 4 acres.

Discussion by the Committee followed about the differences between LFSPs, Tree Farm plans, and county tax plans. Gordon Harnasch provided background on Kootenai County's tax plan criteria and the current legal challenge to the county's requirement for a written tax plan. Efforts to have criteria established in Idaho Code have been problematic as to the interpretation of language by various interest groups. Kootenai County has established criteria for tax plans in county rules, but not in Idaho Code.

Discussion followed about how to spend 2006 FLEP funds. Clark Christiansen commented that a management plan is no good if you don't follow-up with on-the-ground practices. Kirk David asked if there were funds available to cost-share LFSPs in the Forest Health budget. Ara reported that this is something that Jeff Fidgen will need to report back to the committee. Mike Wolcott commented that currently there is no other option for funding plans other than with FLEP funds and that there is still time left to spend the funds.

A MOTION by Arleen Pence to reserve the \$35,000 balance of 2006 FLEP funds for LFSP cost shares for the coming year and revisit this question again at the fall 2009 IFSAC meeting, seconded by Gordon Harnasch, passed unanimously.

S&PF Competitive Grant Program Report – Dave Stephenson

Dave Stephenson, IDL Urban Interface Planning Program Manager, provided the Committee with an overview of the S&PF Redesign and the resulting competitive grant program development and implementation. He reported that the goal of the competitive grant program under S&PF Redesign is to get the best use of federal funds to the states for S&PF programs.

The 2008 competitive grant awarded to Idaho is an analysis of ecosystem benefits for urban areas over the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in North Idaho. The analysis is GIS-based and will identify impervious and vegetated surfaces that will be modeled to determine the value of the existing canopy cover in terms of air and water quality, storm water mitigation, etc. It is anticipated that the results of the analysis will be used by surrounding communities in land use management plan decisions. The model will be able to capture future scenarios for these communities for proposed land use. In short, the model will use "trees as tools."

Dave reported that Avista Utilities will provide 6-inch resolution imagery taken during the summer of 2008. Contractor NCDC Imaging will perform the GIS work for the analysis. It is anticipated that 30+ datasets will be needed for the analysis. Timeline for completion is June 2009. The results of the analysis will be used to build a larger competitive grant project with Spokane County.

Dave also provided the Committee with an overview of the State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR). It is much like the Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) but will utilize a different methodology and data sets for urban and rural areas. Like SAP, it will look at issues related to risks and benefits by and to forests. The analysis will use best existing data to inform the issues identified and best address where S&PF funds should be utilized in joint on-the-ground projects with partners. The first meeting of stakeholders will be held on November 21, 2008, in Coeur d'Alene. IFSAC Chairman, Oscar Baumhoff, has been invited to attend the meeting to represent the Committee. Oscar reported that he will be unable to attend, but asked if Kirk David would attend in his place. Kirk agreed to attend the SAFR meeting to represent the Committee.

Dave reported that there is no additional funding to perform the SAFR, unlike SAP where the state received approximately \$45,000 for the project. However, the Western Forest Leadership

Coalition has received just under \$500,000 to hire a contractor to assist the western states in whatever manner they determine would be helpful. At this time, it is unknown what sort of help will be coming. Dave reported the timeline to complete the analysis is June 30, 2009, followed by the State Response Plan scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2010. The SAFR meeting will be an opportunity to identify what information can be shared between agencies and ownerships and identify partners, not only for S&PF competitive grants, but for other agency priorities/projects as well. Chris Schnepf identified a data gap for the number of forest owners by acreage class; this would be a helpful dataset for Extension.

Idaho Tree Farm Report – Kirk David

Kirk David reported that the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has determined that required specifications for Idaho's Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans meet and/or exceed the performance measures for the American Forest Foundation's (AFF) Standards for Sustainability. A letter regarding this finding has been sent to the state forester, George Bacon, by Robert Simpson, Senior VP, American Forest Foundation on behalf of ATFS. As a result, now when a private landowner in Idaho wants to become an ATFS member and has a current LFSP, they do not need another plan prepared specifically for ATFS. Kirk reported that membership in ATFS provides its members with tree certification through the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) with chain of custody for sustainably produced resources. This provides the benefit of market accessibility for certified forest products.

Forest Practices Program Report – Ara Andrea

Ara Andrea reported to the Committee that a new FPA rule will go before the Idaho Land Board this month for their consideration. The rule allows operators to divert water from a stream during harvest operations to a maximum of 65,000 gallons/day/stream, without a temporary water right. The water use must be used for forest practices and cannot alter stream flow more than 25 percent. If more water is needed, an operator must apply for a temporary water right permit. Firefighting is exempt from existing and proposed rule. A screen size of 3/32" is required on a pump intake for all fish-bearing streams.

Joint Subcommittee Meeting & 2009 Competitive Grant Overview Report – Mary Fritz

Mary Fritz, IDL's Program Planning & Development Specialist, reported that she has been working in her new position since May 2008. Mary provided background on the S&PF competitive grants process and Idaho's place among the 17 western states and 6 territories competing for limited S&PF funds available. IDL's approach to the competitive grants is two-fold, i.e. collaborative and landscape based. Mary explained the need for and make-up of the Multi-Resource Advisory Group (MAG) that was convened during summer 2008. The MAG consisted of members representing IFSAC, the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, Forest Health, the National Fire Plan, and UI Extension.

Priority issues were identified by the MAG, as follows:

- Change in state and regional ecosystems/climate change
- Decreasing timber prices and markets

- Decreasing water quality and quantity
- Rapid uncontrolled expansion /development into the wildland urban interface
- Lack of alternative renewable energy sources
- Etc.

Project ideas were developed by the MAG, were further refined by IDL's working group, which resulted in five projects for Idaho's 2009 grant submissions, as follows:

1. Idaho/Washington Spokane Rathdrum Aquifer
2. I-90/Silver Valley Restoration & Economic Development
3. Riparian Restoration/Improvement Projects
 - a. Grimes & Mores Creek
 - b. Weiser River
 - c. Bonner County Risk Assessment

Project timelines include awarding the projects in November/December 2008, funding announcement in March 2009, and an in-house/after action review in December 2008. Mary anticipates that the Statewide Assessment of Forest Resource (SAFR), currently under development, will provide more information on priority areas in the future. However, a project area has recently been identified in the Montana/Idaho Clark Fork River corridor. The maximum award for each project is \$300,000.

The Committee discussed the ranking process and criteria. Dave Stephenson provided his perspective as a member of the Western Forest Ranking Committee; he scored a portion of the western states' submissions. Dave stressed that smaller states, like Idaho, have the ability to receive much more funding under the competitive grants schema than they could under strait program funding of the past, especially when compared to larger states like California. Dave also reported that projects that showed innovation and those with outcomes scored higher. Chris Schnepf commented there is a need for a new BMP publication that is field-friendly (in size), with more pictures, etc, and that this may be an appropriate project for Idaho's competitive grants next year.

Family Forest Landowner & Managers Conference – Mark Lesko

Mark Lesko, IDL Private Forestry Specialist – St. Maries, reported the Family Forest Landowner Conference will be held March 23-25, 2009, at the University Inn, in Moscow, Idaho. The conference theme will be "Families on the Land: The Next Generation." Mark reviewed the draft agenda for the conference and noted the IDL "Spit & Whittle" session will be held Tuesday, March 24, at 4:30 p.m.

The event for the third day of the conference will be "Ties to the Land, Your Family Forest Heritage: Planning for an Orderly Transition – An Intergenerational Family Forest Project." Facilitators for this session will be Madeline and Kirk David.

Discussion followed regarding the next IFSAC meeting. In years past, the meeting has been held the Wednesday following the Family Forest Landowners Conference. Since some Committee members are planning to attend the "Ties to the Land" event on Wednesday, another meeting

time will need to be considered. Ara will check with the University Inn regarding availability of meeting space on Thursday, March 26th. Other venues that may be available include the Federal Building conference room and the Fairgrounds.

Reappointment of IFSAC Members / IFSAC Operating Procedures – Ara Andrea

Ara reported that Committee members Gordon Harnasch, Chris Schnepf, Kim Golden, and Arleen Pence have expired appointments as of June 30, 2008. Gordon, Chris, and Kim stated they would like to be reappointed, however Arleen stated she would like to be replaced. Ara asked if a sub-committee of volunteers would take on the re-appointment issue within the IFSAC Operating Procedures. The volunteers are Kirk David, Oscar Baumhoff, and Kim Golden.

Additional discussion took place regarding the number of family forest landowners that are to serve as Committee members. This subject was previously discussed at the March 28, 2007 meeting, but due to an oversight, the number of members representing landowners was not changed in the IFSAC Operating Procedures. The intent was to have two members from North Idaho and two members from South Idaho for a total of four family forest landowners serving on the Committee. Suzie Jude will review the minutes and report back to the Committee.

Follow-up Item: Review of the March 28, 2007 minutes and meeting notes does not include a reference to the change of total landowners represented on the IFSAC Committee.

New Business & Announcements

Revisiting the Legacy Program submissions as ranked by the subcommittee, a MOTION by Chris Schnepf to certify the rankings as proposed, seconded by Gordon Harnasch, and passed unanimously, with three abstentions (Robyn Miller, Dee Sessions, and Mary Terra-Berns).

Ara Andrea asked the Committee to provide her with ideas how to fund FSP LFSPs when FLEP funds sunset and before EQIP funds become available. Discussion followed regarding use of annual consolidated funds currently passed through to fund temporary personnel at IDL Area offices.

Chris Schnepf reported three new publications as follows: 1) larch, 2) reducing fine fuels outside home site (available next spring), and 3) management of organic debris/slash (in final review).

Robyn Miller reported on the Clearwater Basin Collaborative that will examine forest stewardship needs in the basin. Please contact Robyn for more information.

Kim Golden reported that Ree Brannon has replaced Dan Pierce who retired last spring from the Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Meeting ADJOURNED 2:50 p.m.

List of Attendees

Oscar Baumhoff, IFSAC Chair (member)	Idaho Forest Owners Association
Jason McGaughey (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
John DeGroot (ex-officio)	Nez Perce Tribe
G. Kirk David (member)	Idaho Tree Farm Committee
Dee Sessions (member)	USDA-Forest Service, State & Private Forestry
Arleen Pence (member)	Idaho Forest Owners Association
Mark Lesko (ex-officio)	Idaho Department of Lands
Mary Terra-Berns (member)	Idaho Department of Fish & Game
David Stephenson (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Suzie Jude (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Ara Andrea (member)	Idaho Department of Lands
Thomas Stundze (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Mary Fritz (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Randy Brooks (ex-officio)	Cooperative Extension System
Chris Schnepf (member)	Cooperative Extension System
Robyn Miller, IFSAC Vice-Chair (member)	The Nature Conservancy
Clark Christiansen (ex-officio)	Idaho Department of Lands
Kim Golden (member)	NRCS – Panhandle Lakes RC&D
Ed Warner (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands
Mike Wolcott (ex-officio)	Consulting Forester
Gordon Harnasch (member)	Kootenai County
Rebecca Sorbel (guest)	Idaho Department of Lands